



Key Stage 3 Curriculum: Drama

Students are taught and assessed on performing skills and how they evaluate work. Team building skills helps increase the confidence of the students so that they can work positively in a group.

- Focus, control, movement and gesture through warm-ups and whole group work.
- Improvisation – students make up their own storylines.
- Script work – different styles of Drama are explored.
- Physical theatre – use of movement to tell a story.
- Costumes, props, music, sound effects and lighting are gradually introduced for students to enhance their work.
- Thorough written evaluations of their own and others work, using GCSE questions.
- Use of IT to research as well as to compose elements that can be used in the Drama work.

Year 7: Drama is introduced to Year 7 in the first term by teaching them the basic skills they need to structure and act in their own plays, as well as interpret scripts and stories. Firstly mime, still images and thought tracking are covered, before tackling improvisation. Taking scenarios like 'at the bus stop'; students can begin to understand simple plot structure. Building tension and slapstick are explored through familiar fairy tales that allow students to understand further how a plot can be developed. This is then followed in the Spring term by looking at the style of melodrama and stock characters. Students begin to use costume and props to enhance their work. In the Summer term students start to look at different styles of Drama; firstly documentary theatre, using real life stories from people who lived in 1914. They learn how to make a Drama scene authentic, whilst teaching the audience about a certain time period. Using documentary theatre allows the students explore how they can educate an audience about history.

Year 8: Students are encouraged to build their theatre skills further. Through different techniques they are able to tell a story in an imaginative way. In the first term they study scenes from the play 'Curious Incident of the dog in the night time', using naturalistic skills as well as physical theatre techniques. In the second term students look at a modern life story and build more realistic characters, in order to explore a particular issue. The students have control over the storyline and come up with different scenarios. Following on from the physical theatre work, students learn about the style of minimalism in the final term, applying techniques to the Shakespeare play, 'The Tempest'.

Year 9: In the first term students return to looking at non-naturalistic theatre by studying 'Metamorphosis' by Berkoff. Using skills taught in previous years, the students can really use their imagination to create the haunting life of Gregor Samsor. Lighting, music and sound effects are used to enhance the work. After returning to more issue based Drama, the students then tackle issues that affect them through forum theatre. This allows them to explore the issue and think about the choices that they make in their own lives. In the Summer term students look at the GCSE text, 'Noughts and Crosses' alongside the practitioner Brecht. This gives them in depth knowledge about how a script can be interpreted.

Extra Curricular

Drama clubs for KS3 run at lunch time. This allows students to continue to build on their Drama skills, gain confidence and participate in concerts and shows. A variety of activities have taken place through the clubs EG street theatre, community projects and the Carlisle Drama Festival. The members of the drama clubs are also often involved in the Performing Arts productions such as the annual musical, the Christmas concert and the summer primary liaison concerts.